WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of creating a counterfeit resistant article, comprising the steps of:

reading a first pattern from an article;

encoding said first pattern into a first data set;

transforming said first data set into a second data set;

converting said second data set into a second pattern; and

marking an article with said second pattern

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second data sets are numeric sequences.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said transforming step is performed with an encryption algorithm.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is a bar code.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is invisible.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

7.   A method of creating a counterfeit resistant article, comprising the steps of:

generating a plurality of complementary data sets;

converting said plurality of complementary data sets into a corresponding plurality of patterns; and

marking an article with said plurality of patterns.

8.   The method of claim 7, wherein said plurality of complementary data sets are numeric sequences.

9.   The method of claim 7, wherein said generating step is performed with an encryption algorithm.

10.   The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns is a bar code.

11.   The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns is invisible.

12.   The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

13.   A method of identifying counterfeit articles, comprising the steps of:
reading a plurality of patterns;
converting said plurality of patterns into a corresponding plurality of data sets; and
comparing said plurality of data sets.

14.   The method of claim 13, wherein said plurality of data sets are numeric sequences.

15.   The method of claim 13, wherein said converting step is performed with an encryption algorithm.

16.   The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns is a bar code.

17.   The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns is invisible.

18.   The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

19.   A system for creating a counterfeit resistant article, comprising:

means for reading a first pattern from an article;

means for encoding said first pattern into a first data set;

means for transforming said first data set into a second data set;

means for converting said second data set into a second pattern; and

means for marking an article with said second pattern.

20.   The system of claim 19, wherein said first and second data sets are numeric sequences.

21.   The system of claim 19, wherein said means for transforming comprises an encryption algorithm.

22.   The system of claim 19, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is a bar code.

23.   The system of claim 19, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is invisible.

24.   The system of claim 19, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

25.   A system for creating a counterfeit resistant article, comprising:

means for generating a plurality of complementary data sets;

means for converting said plurality of complementary data sets into a corresponding plurality of patterns; and

means for marking an article with said plurality of patterns.

26.   The system of claim 25, wherein said plurality of complementary data sets are numeric sequences.

27.   The system of claim 25, wherein said means for generating is performed with an encryption algorithm.

28.   The system of claim 25, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns is a bar code.

29.   The system of claim 25, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns is invisible.

30.   The system of claim 25, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

31.   A system for identifying counterfeit articles, comprising:

means for reading a plurality of patterns;

means for converting said plurality of patterns into a corresponding plurality of data sets; and

means for comparing said plurality of data sets.

32.   The system of claim 31, wherein said plurality of data sets are numeric sequences.

33.   The system of claim 31, wherein said converting step is performed with an encryption algorithm.

34.   The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns is a bar code.

35.   The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns is invisible.

36.   The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of said plurality of patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

37.   A counterfeit resistant article, comprising;

a first marking representing a first data set; and

a second marking representing a second data set, wherein said first data set and said second data set are related according to a defined relationship.

38.   The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said latent marking is invisible.

39.   The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said latent marking exists in the infrared light spectrum.

40.   The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said defined relationship is determined by an encryption algorithm and an encryption key.

41.   The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, further comprising a framing image.

42.   A distributed counterfeit and prevention monitoring system, comprising:

a network;

a marking node connected to said network;

a verification node connected to said network; and

a security management node connected to said network.